

Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ**

Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Koretz Joins Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance Education Taskforce Members in Announcing Inaugural Meeting

(Sacramento) – Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) joined members of the Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance Education Taskforce today to announce their inaugural meeting.

"When Assembly Bill 2003 was signed into law in 2002 to provide teachers with the opportunity to receive the training and resources necessary to teach students about these important issues, I was optimistic that we would be successful," said Koretz. "However, even I am amazed at how successful the Center for Excellence on the Study of Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance has been during its first year of existence.

"First, I want to recognize Dr. Sam Edelman, Director of the Center for the tremendous leadership he has shown in implementing this important measure. I truly appreciate his continued commitment to ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust and genocide are not forgotten. His efforts will help prepare students and teachers to appreciate and celebrate the diversity and multiculturalism of our great state so that these acts against humanity never occur again.

"Today we are here to complete the final implementation of Assembly Bill 2003, by convening the first meeting of the Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance Education Taskforce, which was created to serve as an advisory body to the Governor, Legislature and the Center," said Koretz.

Under AB 2003, the taskforce is an advisory commission only, and there is no obligation on the part of the state, to implement the findings of the commission without further legislation.

The Taskforce is comprised of 11 members, including five ex-officio members: Executive Director, State Board of Education; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Chancellor, California State University; Executive Director, Commission on Teacher Credentialing; and, six public members: three appointed by the Governor, two appointed by the Speaker, and two appointed by Senate Rules. There currently is one Gubernatorial appointment left to be made.

The Legislation explicitly states that no state funding can be used for this Act. However, the Taskforce members and the Director of the Center may apply for and accept grants and receive gifts,

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donations, and other financial support from public or private sources of the chapter. During the first year of existence, the more that \$200,000 was raised through grants and donations to support the operation of the Center for Excellence and another \$100,000 has been raised so for this year. This funding has enabled the Center to train more than 300 teachers.

Due to the success of current law, Mr. Koretz introduced AB 1175 recently to remove the sunset of the pilot program established under AB 2003 and make this a permanent program.

"As the son of a Holocaust survivor, I believe that creating a permanent Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights education program in the state may be the most important piece of legislation that I author in my career as a legislator. I want to ensure that future generations of California children understand the important lessons of these horrific events so that we can prevent these tragic acts from occurring in the future," he concluded.

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